



# DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL, STATE FIRE ACADEMY AND THE STATE HAZ-MAT TEAM

## FIRE SAFETY NEWS



October 2016

### ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS

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As many of you may already know, federal funding is available to fire departments and others through FEMA's **Assistance to Firefighters (AFG)** grant program. This federal program provides grants to fire departments and non-affiliated EMS organizations for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel, enhance operations efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.

The AFG application period will open on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 8:00 AM EST and will close on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 5:00PM EST. Please see the announcement below for more information. Full application information should be available at <https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program> on October 11<sup>th</sup>. We will also send you a reminder when the application period opens.

In preparation for the application period, FEMA has posted a number of resources on its website to help you plan your application (available via link below). We hope you will pass on this information to others eligible organizations who might be interested. If you are a town clerk or town manager receiving this information, we ask that you share this with your local fire department.

We would also strongly encourage you to contact one of FEMA's regional representatives if you have any questions about the program – they can also offer tips on how to write a strong application and provide insights into the grant program.

**David Parr** ([david.parr@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:david.parr@fema.dhs.gov); 617-956-7631)

**Lance Harbour** ([lance.harbour@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:lance.harbour@fema.dhs.gov); 617-956-7544)

If we can be of any assistance with this program or with any other matter, please don't hesitate to contact us. We can also provide a letter in support of your application, should your department apply (please contact any one of our offices to initiate the process).

Sincerely,

Diane Derby  
Office of U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy  
VT Office: (802) 229-0569

Haley Pero  
Office of U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders  
VT Office: (800) 339-9834

Ryan McLaren  
Office of U.S. Representative Peter Welch  
VT Office: (888) 605-7270

#### Upcoming Board meetings

**Electrical Board Meeting:**  
October 4, 2016 9AM

**Elevator Board Meeting:**  
October 11, 2016 9AM

**Access Board Meeting:**  
October 31, 2016 1:30PM

**Plumbing Board Meeting:**  
November 8, 2016, 9AM

#### ~BOARD DEADLINE REMINDER~

If you have a board agenda item, it needs to be received at the Central Office no later than 2 weeks prior to the board meeting.

(for all boards – Access, Electrical, Elevator & Plumbing)

**AFG APPLICATION PERIOD FOR FY 2016 ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANTS (AFG) OPENS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016 AT 8 A.M. ET**

## Director's Message

Michael Desrochers

It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of Peter Lynch, Assistant Fire Chief, Brattleboro Fire Department to the position of Chief of Fire Service Training for the Division of Fire Safety, Department of Public Safety. Peter's first day of official work was on September 4, 2016.

Assistant Chief Peter Lynch began his fire service career as a volunteer with the Dummerston and Brattleboro Fire Departments. Peter has been a fulltime firefighter with the Brattleboro Fire Department for 32 years working his way up through the ranks, the last nine of which he has held the position of Assistant Fire Chief. Early in Peter's career he joined the Vermont Fire Academy as a part-time instructor and is now a lead instructor in many disciplines. He also was a long time member of the Vermont Fire Service Training Council Curriculum Committee.

Peter holds an Associate of Science in Fire Science Technology and a Bachelor of Science in Applied Studies with an emphasis in management. Additionally, Peter has an extensive list of accomplishments and hundreds of hours of certified training and is highly respected by his peers. Peter has a futuristic vision and the leadership skills necessary to effectively work with all fire service affiliations. Peter has a solid understanding of the challenges we face across all disciplines and this will become visible as Peter becomes acclimated to the position.

Peter and his wife Julie along with their daughter Madison live in Dummerston. Please join me in welcoming Peter and his family to the Fire Academy.



## Division of Fire Safety— 26th Annual Robert Howe Fire Safety Calendar Project

[HTTP:// FIRESAFETY.VERMONT.GOV](http://firesafety.vermont.gov)



In August the Division of Fire Safety Sent out reminders to schools of 3rd grade students all over the state of Vermont about the 2017 Robert Howe Fire Safety Calendar poster contest. This year is special as it marks our 26th anniversary. Please contact your local school if you can help support them in any way.



**FOR QUESTIONS ON THE CONTEST PLEASE CONTACT BRIDGETTE @ 802-479-7561**



# Save the Date



## November 30, 2016

Join Us at the  
Carbon Monoxide Awareness  
& Prevention Summit  
at Fireside Inn, Lebanon, NH  
from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Learn latest information about NH/VT carbon monoxide risks. How to address experiences of victims of carbon monoxide exposure. Approaches to increase use of carbon monoxide alarms. Speakers include experts from the National Product Evaluation and Testing Center from the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Subsidized by:

Carbon Monoxide Alliance, The Northern New England Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program, Dartmouth Centers for Health and Aging, Propane Gas Association of New England and a victim of carbon monoxide poisoning.

**To Register:**  
<https://www.research.net/r/COSummitNH>

*The mission of the CO Alliance is to understand the preventable, structural, and personal causes of carbon monoxide incidents in our region and take action to remedy them.*

A New Hampshire Vermont Collaborative Effort



93 Davison Drive  
 Pittsford, Vermont 05763  
 TEL: 802-483-2755 FAX: 802-483-2464  
 Toll Free: 1-800-615-3473  
[www.vtfireacademy.org](http://www.vtfireacademy.org)

Vermont Fire Department Members,

The Firefighter I and Firefighter II course locations for this year are as follows:

## Firefighter I

Location	Application Deadline	Orientation	Time	Class Meeting Night
Barton at Glover	September 1, 2016	September 14, 2016	1800	Wednesday with some weekend days
Bran-don/Middlebury at Brandon	August 25, 2016	September 8, 2016	1830	Thursday with some weekend days
Chester	August 8, 2016	August 22, 2016	1830	Monday and Thursday with some weekend days
South Hero	August 23, 2016	September 6, 2016	1800	Thursday with some weekend days
Swanton	August 26, 2016	September 9, 2016	1800	Tuesday with some weekend days
Windham County	August 9, 2016	August 23, 2016	1800	Tuesday with some weekend days

\*\*\* If you currently have CPR/1stAid/AED and/or ICS 100 certification, please forward copies of your certificates because they are required for Firefighter I certification.

## Firefighter II

Location	Application Deadline	Orientation	Time	Class Meeting Night
Bristol	August 16, 2016	August 30, 2016	1830	Monday with some weekend days
Newark/Orleans at Orleans	August 25, 2016	September 8, 2016	1800	Thursday with some weekend days
Rutland Town	August 11, 2016	August 25, 2016	1800	Thursday with some weekend days

\*\*\* If you currently have ICS 200 certification, please forward a copy of your certificate because it is required for Firefighter II certification

## Firefighter I/II Combined



## Is Your Department Ready?

Your pager goes off and you are called to a vehicle crash with hazardous materials involved, or a report of a strange odor and people sick, or a carbon monoxide detector sounding or an unknown purple liquid running down the street. Are you ready to begin managing this incident safely?

The first step in successful management of hazardous materials events in your community is insuring all first responders have the appropriate level of training. In addition to training all the first responder organizations: fire, police and EMS should meet to establish communications plans, areas of responsibility and to identify areas of concern and perform necessary planning. Planning should also include any other groups that might be affected such as schools, local government and nearby medical facilities.

When the incident occurs the fire department should consider the following:

- Approach from the upwind upgrade side if possible
- Has an Incident Command System been established?
  - Is the Command Post in a safe area?
- Is there an immediate life safety concern?
- Establish control zones
- How many victims are there?
- Is EMS on scene and do we have adequate EMS assets?
- Is there a need to evacuate or shelter in place
- Do I need 'emergency' decontamination
- Can we identify the product?
  - Shipping papers
  - Placards
  - Shape of container
  - Description of product from witnesses or victims
- Is the product moving? Can we contain it?
- Do we need assistance from the State HAZMAT Team – **800-641-5005**
- Do we have the training and equipment?
- Where will it go if we do not stop it?
- Do I need Town Highway to bring resources?
  - Road blocks
  - Sand
  - Heavy equipment
- Does electricity need to be cut? (When flammable vapors are present)

### **\*\* Important to note \*\***

If assistance is required from the Vermont Hazardous Materials Response Team (VHMRT), call the **HAZMAT Hotline - 1-800-641-5005**.

Be prepared to advise the dispatcher/call taker with the following information;

- What are you requesting for assistance;
  - Requesting a Team Activation to assist with the incident
  - To consult with the on call VHMRT Crew Chief
  - Requesting assistance with the clean up
  - Reporting only of the incident
- Provide a call back number for the Incident Commander

For request for Team Activation or Consultation, the dispatcher/call taker will page the on call VHMRT Crew Chief

- The Crew Chief will call back to speak with the Incident Commander and will be looking for the following information;
  - Hazardous Material(s) involved and quantity
  - Location of incident and best route to take for response
  - Actions that have been taken thus far

Based on the information provided, the Crew Chief will determine what VHMRT assets will be deployed in support of the incident.

### **\*\* Reminder \*\***

The HOTLINE is the way to get help in an emergency. All incidents involving spills should be reported through the hotline.

If you have any non-emergency HAZMAT questions or suggestions please contact me.



## 9 Steps to Take for a Safer Initial Hazardous Materials Response

**By following these steps, as a responder with either Awareness or Operations Level training, your initial arrival to the hazmat scene will be safe and effective.**

Hazardous materials incidents are one of the most detailed and intensive responses you will ever experience as a responder. A verified hazardous materials response is a labor intensive and resource demanding, critical incident potentially affecting large amounts of people and geography.

Even with the advent of specialized teams, such as the Vermont Hazard Materials Response Team (VHMRT), the strategically placed Decon trailers, the VHMRT response vehicles, LP Gas response trailer, sophisticated identification and mitigation tools, responders are still finding themselves exposed to risk when waiting for the VHMRT team to arrive on scene.

A fire or vehicle crash is in the skill set and ability for Vermont fire departments to handle and support. But exactly how the "ethyl-methyl death stuff" spill is resolved successfully is a low-probability / high-skills tactical progression or a low frequency / high risk incident.

The amount of information, equipment and training needed to mitigate such incidents is simply too much for most moderate or small departments to handle effectively. But there are steps we can take as first responders regardless of the situation encountered.

### Initial hazmat response steps

1. Isolate area
2. Control access
3. Establish command and communications
4. Establish emergency decontamination
5. Identify the materials labels and placards properties and characteristics
6. Identify product container integrity
7. Identify product amount
8. Confirm formal hazmat response (timeline and equipment)
9. Determine staging locations and full decon setup — warm zone entry and exit

Regardless of the product or its location, isolation and restricted access — upwind and uphill are the first protective actions considerations. Evacuating the immediate and adjacent areas, establishing isolation zones through access control and using the Emergency Response Guide Book throughout the initial response are invaluable actions regardless of the level of threat. To accomplish this on scene, coordination with law enforcement, public works and EMS is a top priority.

Without proper documentation, initial product identification will be wrong. It never fails. Whether it is a nitrate or a nitrite, makes a huge difference in threat levels and correspondingly in response parameters. The chemical properties of one acid over another could be polar opposites, one floating high above the valley, while another sits on the ground in a slow moving mist.

Initial reports from civilians, while well intentioned, are subject to error. Described as a "powder" by a well-meaning residents, the product is actually in granular form changing its hazard characteristics. What is reported as a fire is actually a fog or mist of unstable and rapidly spreading product. What was relayed as a red colored placard is actually orange.

### Command & Communicate

The next step is to establish Incident Command and utilize your reference resources to begin to research the incident.

Simple information seen from a distance, like carrier name on the side of a trailer, description of vehicle, condition of material (in the box, leaking liquid, material on the ground, etc.), as well as any labels and placards observed, when combined with detailed reference materials can contribute quickly and effectively in determining the product and more importantly its potential to do harm.

*Continued on next page:*

Next, establish a communications plan. Confirm that all authorities having jurisdiction are being notified and that appropriate resources are activated. Get your operation channels formalized as well as a timeline of arrivals and accountability for any EOC or ICS strategy initiated outside your initial response authority.

While it may be frustrating to not enter the scene, especially when there are confirmed injuries and the potential for fire, remind yourself and your fellow responders that you are the eyes and ears of this incident. Mitigation without adequate resources and support is simply not an option.

Use the resources you have on scene to facilitate progress in identification and support services. While you may be an excellent firefighting crew, you are not a hazmat team. Without proper training and protection, your risk/benefit ratio in entering a hazmat incident is off the charts.

### **Exception to the rule**

Saving a viable life is the only exception to a no-entry policy even in a hazmat incident. But without proper training and PPE, the human potential for disaster is at dangerous, if not lethal, levels.

A simple cache of inexpensive hazmat related equipment/gear combined with basic response training, will not only give you more personal protection in securing the scene and encountering the unexpected, but will definitely extend your initial on-scene capabilities.

With enough duct tape, a Tyvek suit, nitrile or latex gloves, bunker boots plus SCBA and you have Level B protection. This is more than enough to initiate a rescue just outside the hot zone for someone who has left the incident or is removed from the product.

Directing civilians toward you and your emergency decon set-up can minimize contamination and speed up rescue and evacuation. A decon and an area of patient isolation can be quickly established with a little planning and a few makeshift items such as privacy curtains, warm clothing or blankets. Make sure your emergency decon with pre-connect and catch basin tarp is set up in a timely fashion for all those exiting the warm zone.

In addition to medical attention, the initial directive for such action is for civilian containment and control. Answering questions and making an occasional phone call while corralling civilians goes a long way in establishing command over the incident and its victims.

The key to an appropriate hazmat response is to subscribe to a particular set of tactical responses, standardized in their approach and straightforward in their application. If these basic tactical criteria are met, initial first responder encounters with hazardous materials will be safe and successful.

### **Hazmat Cache**

- ERG book: Available through Division of Fire Safety
  - Binoculars
  - Wind speed indicator
  - Compass
  - Maps, pre-incident plans and reference materials
  - Tyvek suits, nitrile or latex gloves for decon
  - Additional tarps, bleach, petroleum jelly, corn starch, blankets, disposable towels, absorbent pads, clean scrubs and valuables bags.
  - Laptop with various Hazmat programs: Cameo, WISER, ERG, DOT on-line, etc.
- Cell phone with Chemtrec, Poison Control Center, NRC, SDS, DOT, EPA, etc.



## VERMONT FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT UPDATE

It has been very busy since my last update in the August Newsletter. Since July 14, 2016 The Division's Fire Investigators have been involved in 19 Fire Investigations. The includes 9 Undetermined Fire, 5 Accidental Fires and 5 Incendiary Fires. Injuries and fatalities include 2 fatal fires and 4 injuries.

Five Incendiary fires have occurred since July 14, 2016.

July 23, 2016, Apartment building at 90 Pine Grove Drive, North Troy, VT  
August 4, 2016, Single Family Home at 568 RTE 112, Whitingham, VT  
August 110, 2016, Single Family Home at 100 Gage Street, No. Westminster, VT  
August 11, 2016, Public Works Garage, 352 Park Street, Stowe VT  
August 21, 2016, Storage Shed at 2404 RTE 100C, Johnson, VT

These fire are under active investigation.

Reminder, smoke and smoke alarms save lives. Unfortunately, the 2 fatalities lived in a home with non-functioning smoke detectors.

If you have any questions in regards to the installation of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, please visit our web site at [www.firesafety.vermont.gov](http://www.firesafety.vermont.gov)

Joseph Benard  
Deputy Director

School will be starting soon, it's time to get your School involved in this great Project!

### The 26th Annual Robert Howe Fire Safety Calendar needs entries from all of Vermont's 3rd Graders!

Each month in 2017 has a different fire safety message, and we depend on our state's third graders to help us to get those messages out to the public through the Fire Safety Calendar.

After the calendars are printed they are distributed to every Elementary School and Fire Department in our state. So help your students become statewide stars!



If you are interested in supporting the 2017 calendar project, please send your donations to

***L. Brown & Sons Printing Inc.***

**14-20 Jefferson Street**

**Barre, VT 05641**

All money collected will be used for the printing costs of the calendar.

Distribution of the Calendars is paid for by Vermont Division of Fire Safety.

**We ask that all contributions be submitted by November 16th.**

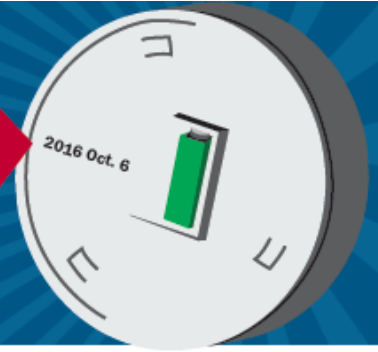
And please make your checks payable to L. Brown & Sons Printing Inc.  
and include Fire Safety Calendar on the memo line of the check.

[www.firesafety.vermont.gov](http://www.firesafety.vermont.gov)



# Don't Wait — Check the Date!

Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years



**Fire Prevention Week**  
**Oct. 9-15, 2016**

Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarms.  
Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!

# 1

Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.

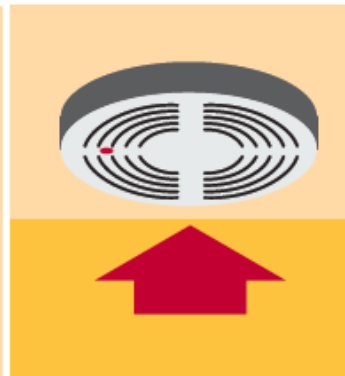


# 2

Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture.

# 3

Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.



# 4

Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.



A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.



Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit [usfa.fema.gov](http://usfa.fema.gov) and [firepreventionweek.org](http://firepreventionweek.org).

U.S. Fire  
Administration



FEMA





State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety

# Division of Fire Safety

[www.firesafety.vermont.gov](http://www.firesafety.vermont.gov)

## CALENDAR OF FIRE EVENTS



Date	Event	Location
4	Electrical Board Meeting	BERLIN
11	Elevator Board Meeting	BERLIN
10	Columbus Day	ALL
9-15	National Fire Prevention Week	ALL
19	Division Training	BERLIN
31	Access Board Meeting	BERLIN

### October 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<b>National Fire Prevention Week</b>						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

We are Open  
Columbus Day  
Monday  
October 10th



Date	Event	Location
8	Plumbing Board	BERLIN
11	Veteran's Day ~State offices Closed~	ALL
24	Thanksgiving Day ~State offices Closed~	ALL
25	Day After Thanksgiving ~State offices Closed~	ALL

### November 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			





State of Vermont      Division of Fire Safety  
1311 US Route 302—Berlin Suite 600  
Barre, VT 05641-2351  
FIRESAFETY.VERMONT.GOV

OCTOBER 2016

*To be added to the monthly newsletter email  
mailing list contact the Central Office  
(802) 479-7561*

**REMEMBER .... Smoke Detectors, Fire Sprinklers and Carbon  
Monoxide Detectors Save Lives**

Vermont Department of Public Safety

## ***Division of Fire Safety***

### **Central Office**

1311 US Route 302— Suite 600  
Barre, VT 05641-2351  
Phone (802) 479-7561 Fax (802) 479-7562  
Toll Free (800) 640-2106

### **HAZMAT Response Team**

Phone (802) 479-7586  
Fax (802) 479-7562  
Toll Free (800) 641-5005

### **Vermont Fire Academy**

93 Davison Drive  
Pittsford, VT 05763  
Phone (802) 483-2755 Fax (802) 483-2464  
Toll Free (800) 615-3473

## **Regional Offices:**

### **Williston**

380 Hurricane Lane— Suite 101  
Williston, VT 05495-2080  
Phone (802) 879-2300 Fax (802) 879-2312  
Toll Free (800) 366-8325

### **Barre**

1311 US Route 302— Suite 500  
Barre, VT 05641-7301  
Phone (802) 479-4434 Fax (802) 479-4446  
Toll Free (888) 870-7888

### **Rutland**

56 Howe Street, Building A— Suite 200  
Rutland, VT 05701  
Phone (802) 786-5867 Fax (802) 786-5872  
Toll Free (888) 370-4834

### **Springfield**

100 Mineral Street— Suite 307  
Springfield VT 05156-3168  
Phone (802) 885-8883 Fax (802) 885-8885  
Toll Free (866) 404-8883

## **DIVISION OF STATE POLICE—FIRE INVESTIGATION**

Waterbury—45 State Drive, Waterbury, VT 05671-1300— (802) 244-8781—Fax (802) 241-5371